

because, as Mr. Rybcznski said, we did deal with such things for approximately eight weeks. I gave it great thought, and I think it would be necessary to allow the local governments a little bit of flexibility, as well as the General Assembly a little bit of flexibility in deciding such a problem.

THE CHAIRMAN: Does any delegate desire to speak in favor?

Delegate Beatrice Miller.

DELEGATE BEATRICE MILLER: If I may, I would like to ask a question, please, sir.

THE CHAIRMAN: To whom is the question addressed?

DELEGATE BEATRICE MILLER: To Delegate Hanson, I guess.

THE CHAIRMAN: Does any other delegate desire to speak in favor of the amendment?

Delegate Clagett.

DELEGATE CLAGETT: Mr. Chairman, this is going to be one of my most brief statements in favor. I only advise the delegates that if they do not vote in favor of it, they will have a reconsideration of Amendment No. 14.

THE CHAIRMAN: Does any other delegate desire to speak in opposition?

Delegate Byrnes.

DELEGATE BYRNES: I would say in response to Delegate Schloeder that I, contrary to his thinking, do think that his position is better than this one. I think I might, as I would hope Delegate Schloeder would have done, review with you the thinking of the Committee with regard to uniformity of election days.

The majority position was to increase the voter turnout in response to elections. The higher the turnout the more democratic the response, as we have said over and over again. To the extent that elections are relevant to the lives of more people, to that greater extent will the media, television, press, etc., give their greater attention to it.

Many small newspapers have their own favorites. The major metropolitan dailies will not cover isolated county elections. If you have a uniformity of date throughout the State, you will have continuous exchange of ideas about governmental policy and structure. If the county election is not at the same time as other similar elections, it will similarly add another election to the

calendar of the voter and raise all the other objections we reviewed before.

If you have uniformity of decision on when people take office at the county level, it will assist state and national agencies who have to make policy judgments about the transmission of funds and the transmission of ideas, and it will be much better for them if this information were available all at one time and they knew who to speak to.

One of the unfortunate aspects of this amendment is, I think, that it perhaps gives a little too much flexibility to the county structure, which by the simple expedient of a charter amendment, which we all know is not viewed with the greatest attention by the population of the counties, can change an election date to suit political necessity at the time. I think this is a very dangerous move.

I think if elections are held simultaneously on different levels of government you will have, as we described before, the exchange of ideas horizontally and vertically. The emphasis I would like to place is not so much on what is wrong about this idea but what is so very right, as we have discussed over and over again, about uniformity of election dates and years.

I think finally I would point out that if there is too much freedom granted on the county level to election dates, you would put the terms of office in continuous jeopardy.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have less than a half minute.

DELEGATE BYRNES: In summary, I think the essence of this proposal is that it would unsettle settled patterns in the State, and that the thrust of the suggestions by both the majority and minority to you was to establish a uniformity and establish a permanency. This amendment I think would jeopardize that. I urge that you reject it.

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Gallagher.

DELEGATE GALLAGHER: Mr. Chairman, and ladies and gentlemen, just a brief word.

It appeared to me this morning that actually what we had been asking for was a constitutional exception naming Baltimore City. When Delegate Dukes raised the point about Prince George's County being entitled to a similar consideration, it became quite obvious that Baltimore City really ought not, in the interest of good constitutional practice, ask to be spelled out and dealt out specifically in the Constitution.